What is the Junction Avenue Urban Waters Project?
Junction Avenue residents are actively involved in revitalizing their neighborhood. As we make plans, we have an opportunity to turn vacant property into beautiful and useful green spaces that also help to manage stormwater. Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) will work with the community through the Junction Avenue Urban Waters Project to show how green infrastructure can be part of neighborhood improvement plans. Through this partnership, we will develop a green infrastructure plan to help improve water quality by managing stormwater runoff while meeting neighborhood goals for beautification and encouraging economic reinvestment.

Be a part of four community events to make your voice heard in plans for the future of the neighborhood. Learn about water quality and stormwater issues and put your knowledge to work.

1. **Learn about green infrastructure. What would you like to see?**
2. **Walk the Junction Avenue business district and look for green infrastructure opportunities.**
3. **Draw up some plans! Show how green space would benefit the community.**
4. **The big reveal: unveil the community plan to neighbors and city officials.**

Learning about green infrastructure
The project team has visited neighborhoods in Toledo that have used green infrastructure to improve their communities.

Junction Avenue residents got ideas from Uptown Green, a newly constructed gathering space in Toledo’s uptown neighborhood.

Moments of the project team discussing plans for the neighborhood in front of Junction Avenue mural.

The Junction Avenue Green Infrastructure Advisory Committee consists of residents, local government, and non-profit organizations who provide informed guidance to the Junction Avenue Urban Waters project. The advisory committee meets quarterly to review the community’s feedback and to make recommendations.

The Junction Avenue Urban Waters Project Advisory Committee consists of:
- Junction neighborhood residents, businesses, and churches and community organizations
- The City of Toledo Council District 4 (council member Paula Hicks-Hudson)
- The City of Toledo Division of Environmental Services
- The City of Toledo Division of Engineering Services
- University of Toledo Urban Affairs Center (UTUAC)
- Lucas County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank)
- Pickett Community Hub
- The Arts Commission
- Mott Branch Library
- Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG)

This project was funded by the U.S. EPA Urban Waters Program. For more information contact TMACOG at 419.241.9155.

E-mail: smith@tmacog.org

“Junction Avenue Urban Waters Project” on Facebook.

Adding beautiful and useful green infrastructure to neighborhood revitalization plans
What is stormwater?
Stormwater is rain and melted snow. When rain falls in natural areas like forests and meadows, it seeps into the ground where it is purified by soil and plants. When rain falls onto hard surfaces like roofs, streets, and parking lots, the water cannot soak into the ground. Instead, it runs through curbed streets and into storm drains. Stormwater that goes into storm drains goes into nearby rivers or creeks.

Why stormwater issues are important to you!
The stormwater carries trash, bacteria, road grease, fertilizers, and any other pollution that comes in contact with stormwater as it runs across hard surfaces. Unlike sewage and wastewater from our homes, stormwater does not go to a treatment plant before it flows into the rivers and Lake Erie. By reducing the amount of pollution that enters rivers, we can help keep the costs of drinking water low and ensure that all of Toledo's residents have clean, safe drinking water. Keeping pollution out of stormwater also helps encourage healthy and sustainable communities in our rivers and the lake.

What is green infrastructure?
Green infrastructure is gardens, trees, and grassy areas where plants, soils, and other natural methods manage stormwater and create healthier environments. In a city, where much of the ground is paved with streets and parking lots, green infrastructure helps to keep pollution out of our rivers. Green infrastructure also helps prevent flooding by making a place for water to go when it rains. Green infrastructure can benefit you, your neighbors, and businesses by providing a beautiful environment for us to live, work, and play.

Rain Gardens
Rain gardens (also known as bio-retention or bio-infiltration cells) are shallow, planted basins that collect and absorb runoff from rooftops, sidewalks, and streets. Rain gardens are a pretty, natural spot where rainwater can go to soak in and evaporate. Rain gardens are versatile and can be installed in almost any unsuited space.

Planter Boxes
Planter boxes are ideal for small sites in dense urban areas. These urban rain gardens have vertical walls and open or closed bottoms. They collect and absorb runoff from sidewalks, parking lots, and streets.

Trees
Trees reduce and slow stormwater by catching rain and snow in their leaves and branches. Rain that reaches the ground feeds the trees. Homeowners, businesses, and cities can all participate in the planting and maintenance of trees throughout the urban environment. Many cities set tree canopy goals to restore some of the benefits provided by trees.

Bioswales
A swale is a shallow depression that is planted and mulched. These areas hold water and remove pollutants naturally as stormwater moves from one place to another.

Permeable Pavements
Permeable pavements are specially designed hard surfaces that allow water to soak through to the soil where it can be stored or treated where it falls. These pavements can be used in parking lots, sidewalks, and streets.

Green Streets and Alleys
Green streets and alleys include green infrastructure elements to store, infiltrate, and evaporate stormwater. Permeable pavement, bioswales, planter boxes, and trees are among the many green infrastructure features that can be woven into street or alley design.

Green Parking Options
Many of the green infrastructure elements can be seamlessly integrated into parking lot designs. Permeable pavements can be installed in sections of a parking lot and rain gardens and bioswales can be included in medians and along a parking lot perimeter.

Find out about project updates and explore a map of the neighborhood on our Facebook page
Vacant properties provide opportunities to include gardens, swales, and other features that hold and treat stormwater. Where are the best places to build these beautiful, useful features? The Junction Avenue Project Community Group is looking for locations for green infrastructure that would work best with community goals.
What is Stormwater?
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Why stormwater issues are important to YOU!
The stormwater carries trash, bacteria, road grease, fertilizers, and any other pollution that comes in contact with rainwater. Unfiltered sewage from our homes, stormwater does not go to a wastewater plant before it flows into the rivers and Lake Erie. The city’s drinking water is taken from the lake before it’s treated and sent to our taps. By reducing the amount of pollution that enters our rivers, we can help keep the costs of drinking water low and ensure that all of Toledo’s residents have clean, safe drinking water. Keeping pollution out of stormwater also helps encourage healthy and sustainable communities in our rivers and the lake.

What is green infrastructure?
Green infrastructure is gardens, trees, and green areas where plants, soils, and other natural methods manage stormwater and create healthier environments. In a city, where much of the ground is paved with streets and parking lots, green infrastructure helps to keep pollution out of our rivers. Green infrastructure also helps prevent flooding by making a place for water to go when it rains. Green infrastructure can benefit you, your neighbors, and businesses by providing a beautiful environment for us to live, work, and play.

You can do a lot to prevent stormwater pollution in your own neighborhood
• Don’t pour anything in the storm drain or sewage water. Throw away old cleaners, used oil, and paint the safe way. (Call 419-213-2230 for information - Lucas County Waste Management.)
• On your lot, plant shrubs and trees and clear gutters away from driveways and areas on the soil or grass.
• Tell city leaders that you would like to see more stormwater-friendly green space in your neighborhood. The city council member representing West Side is Paul Hobbs Hudson (419-245-1000). Many other government representatives attend neighborhood meetings.
• Become involved with the Junction Avenue Urban Waters Project! Come to our events. You can also like the "Junction Avenue Urban Waters Project" Facebook page for project updates and announcements for all "Functions at the Junction."